CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for determining the usage of space in a database, comprising:

2   storing, at a first database server, a first set of space usage data that reflects the

3   amount of free space associated with the database;

4   retrieving, from one or more second database servers, a second set of space usage

5   data that reflects the amount of free space associated with the database;

6   updating the first set of space usage data with the second set of space usage data; and

7   evaluating the usage of space in the database based on the updated first set of space

8   usage data.

1   2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the first set of space usage data and the second set of

2   space usage data each reflect the amount of free space in one or more tablespaces that

3   are each associated with the database.

1   3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the first set of space usage data and the second set of

2   space usage data each reflect the amount of free space in one or more files that are

3   each associated with the database.

1   4.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the first set of space usage data is updated based on

2   changes made to the database by the first database server, and wherein the second set

3   of space usage data is updated based on changes made to the database by the one or

4   more second database servers.

1   5.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of storing the first set of space usage data

2   comprises:

3 storing a subset of the first set of space usage data, wherein each subset is associated

4   with a transaction initiated by the first database server that is performed on the

5   database.

1 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of storing the first set of space usage data

2 comprises:

3 examining the database to generate the first set of space usage data.

1 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving the second set of space usage

2 data comprises:

3 determining that a configurable period of time has expired, wherein the configurable

4   period of time indicates an amount of time to wait before retrieving the second

5   set of space usage data from the one or more second clients

1 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of evaluating the usage of space in the

2 database comprises:

3 determining if a tablespace in the database has exceeded a configurable threshold.

1 9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

2 raising an alert that indicates that the usage of space in a tablespace in the database

3   has exceeded a configurable threshold.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

2 in response to the step of evaluating the usage of space in the database, scheduling

3   space reclamation for the database.

1 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the database is in a distributed cluster of databases.

1 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the database is in a grid of databases.

1 13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the steps of retrieving, updating, and evaluating may

2 be repeated in sequence after a configurable amount of time lapses since the step of

3 evaluating was last performed.

1 14. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for

2 determining the usage of space in a database, wherein execution of the one or more

3 sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more

4 processors to perform the steps of:

5 storing, at a first database server, a first set of space usage data that reflects the

6 amount of free space associated with the database;

7 retrieving, from one or more second database servers, a second set of space usage

8 data that reflects the amount of free space associated with the database;

9 updating the first set of space usage data with the second set of space usage data; and

10 evaluating the usage of space in the database based on the updated first set of space

11 usage data.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the first set of space usage data

2 and the second set of space usage data each reflect the amount of free space in one or

3 more tablespaces that are each associated with the database.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the first set of space usage data

2 and the second set of space usage data each reflect the amount of free space in one or

3 more files that are each associated with the database.

1   17.   The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the first set of space usage data

2   is updated based on changes made to the database by the first database server, and

3   wherein the second set of space usage data is updated based on changes made to the

4   database by the one or more second database servers.

1   18.   The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the step of storing the first set

2   of space usage data comprises:

3   storing a subset of the first set of space usage data, wherein each subset is associated

4   with a transaction initiated by the first database server that is performed on the

5   database.

1   19.   The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the step of storing the first set

2   of space usage data comprises:

3   examining the database to generate the first set of space usage data.

1   20.   The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the step of retrieving the

2   second set of space usage data comprises:

3   determining that a configurable period of time has expired, wherein the configurable

4   period of time indicates an amount of time to wait before retrieving the second

5   set of space usage data from the one or more second clients

1   21.   The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the step of evaluating the usage

2   of space in the database comprises:

3   determining if a tablespace in the database has exceeded a configurable threshold.

1　22.　The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein execution of the one or more

2　　　sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or more

3　　　processors to perform the additional step of:

4　　　raising an alert that indicates that the usage of space in a tablespace in the database

5　　　　　has exceeded a configurable threshold.

1　23.　The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein execution of the one or more

2　　　sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or more

3　　　processors to perform the additional step of:

4　　　in response to the step of evaluating the usage of space in the database, scheduling

5　　　　　space reclamation for the database.

1　24.　The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the database is in a distributed

2　　　cluster of databases.

1　25.　The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the database is in a grid of

2　　　databases.

1　26.　The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the steps of retrieving,

2　　　updating, and evaluating may be repeated in sequence after a configurable amount of

3　　　time lapses since the step of evaluating was last performed.